

10 Health Facts You Need To Know

1. Pittsburgh ranks as one of the top 10 most polluted cities in the nation in regard to year-round particle pollution (PM2.5). [1, 3]
2. Allegheny County ranks in the top 2 percent of counties in the U.S. for cancer risk from air pollution. [2]
3. Our air poses a significant threat to public health with an increased risk of heart and lung disease, asthma, diabetes, cancer and premature death. [1, 3, 6]
4. Asthma, cardiovascular disease and stroke can be aggravated by short-term exposure to particulate pollution. [7]
5. Suspected carcinogens in air pollution are associated with lung cancer, bladder cancer and childhood leukemia. [6]
6. Air pollution may be the cause of neurodevelopmental disorders (autism spectral) and neurodegenerative disorders (Parkinson's, ALS, Alzheimer's), which have increased at alarming rates in recent decades. [6]
7. Low birth weight and developmental effects in babies are linked to chronic exposures to toxic air pollutants and particulate matter. [6]
8. Air pollution has been linked with pregnancy and birth complications among women living in Allegheny County, including increased risk of preeclampsia, gestational hypertension and preterm births. [1]
9. Fine particulate matter may alter metabolism in genetically susceptible populations, leading to higher body mass index (BMI) and obesity. [6]
10. The construction of the Shell Petrochemical facility in Beaver County could erase 30 years' worth of regional air quality improvements and bring a variety of health risks from the VOCs it will emit. [5] Planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from the Shell plant alone would potentially wipe out all the reductions in carbon dioxide that Pittsburgh, just 25 miles away, is planning to achieve by 2035.

Our Region's Air **IS STILL POLLUTED**

MONITORS SHOW OUR REGION'S POOR AIR IS CAUSED MOSTLY BY LOCAL SOURCES

- In 2017, the air quality in the Pittsburgh region got worse. Air quality was considered NOT GOOD for 279 days (2017) compared to 249 days (2016), more than 3-quarters of the year. [3]
- In 2017, the air quality in Allegheny County declined. Air quality was considered NOT GOOD for 203 days (2017) compared to 189 days (2016). [3]
- From 2015-2017, three regional air monitors in Pittsburgh registered particulate matter (PM 2.5) concentrations worse than 90% of the U.S. [3]
- During the same period, five out of 10 monitors in the Pittsburgh region had PM-2.5 levels in the worst 20% in the nation. [3]
- EPA estimates that emissions from Pennsylvania sources will contribute over 50% of human-caused ozone at four sites in western Pennsylvania counties in 2017 (one each in Allegheny, Armstrong, Indiana and Lawrence Counties). [3]

SOURCES

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